

A list of the genera *Mechanitis* and *Melinaea* (Danaiidae,  
Ithomiinae) collected in the Santa Marta Mountains  
and its vicinity, Colombia, South America

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Una lista de los géneros *Mechanitis* y *Melinaea* (Danaiidae, Ithomiinae)  
coleccionados en Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta y su vecinidad,  
Colombia, América del Sur

The genera *Mechanitis* and *Melinaea*, belonging to the subfamily Ithomiinae, are distributed only in Central and South America. The author reports here a list of three species of the genus *Mechanitis* and one species of the genus *Melinaea* with some ecological notes, which were collected and surveyed in the Santa Marta Mountains and its vicinity, the northern part of Colombia, South America, by the 1st Scientific Expedition of Shizuoka University to the Colombian Andes, 1967. The specimens have been preserved in the collection of Faculty of Science, Shizuoka University.

The author expresses his thanks to kindness of the late Mr. TARÔ IWASE, Dr. TAKASHI SHIRÔZU and Dr. KÔROKU NEGISHI, who offered conveniences of investigating literatures, moreover Dr. RYÛICHI TSUCHI and Mr. TAKESHI SUGIMOTO, who helped him in butterfly survey in that expedition.

1. *Mechanitis menapis caribensis* Fox

2♂♂2♀♀, Chemesquemena, Río Guatapuri, Magdalena, 8. vi, coll. T. SUGIMOTO & M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂1♀, near Chemesquemena, 1200m, Río Guatapuri, Magdalena, 26. vi, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, Donachúi, Magdalena, 26. vi, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂2♀♀, Donachúi, Magdalena, 27. vi, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♀, near Sacaracungüei, 1900-2100m, Río Donachúi, Magdalena, 28. vi, coll. T. SUGIMOTO; 2♂♂, Donachúi, Magdalena, 2. vii, coll. T. SUGIMOTO; 1♂1♀, Donachúi, Magdalena, 3. vii, coll. T. SUGIMOTO; 1♀, San Lorenzo, Magdalena, 11. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, Quebrada Cinto, near Río Piedras, Magdalena, 2. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI.

The species *M. menapis* is distributed from Central America to the northern part of South America. The subspecies *M. m. caribensis* is found in the Caribbean Coast region of Colombia and Venezuela.

Fox (1967) enumerated the localities of this subspecies in the Department Magdalena, northern Colombia, as followings: Bonda, Cincinati, Don Amo, Río Frío, SMM (The Santa Marta Mountains), and Ciénaga de Zapatosa.

The subspecies *M. m. caribensis* was commonly found in the humid forest of mountainous zone in Donachúi district, on the south-eastern slope of the SMM, but rare in the tropical lowland near Caribbean Sea.

2. *Mechanitis polymnia doryssus* BATES

1♀, San Lorenzo, Magdalena, 11. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♀, Río Mendiguaca, Magdalena, 29. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 2♂♂, Loma El Medio, near Río Piedras, Magdalena, 30. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 2♂♂, Quebrada Manzanares, Río Piedras, Magdalena, 31. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, Quebrada Cinto, near Río Piedras, Magdalena, 2. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♀, Quebrada Santa Teresa, Río Piedras, Magdalena, 3. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♀, San Isidro de la Sierra, Río Piedras, Magdalena, 22. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, San Isidro de la Sierra, Río Piedras, Magdalena, 23. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, San Isidro de la Sierra, Río Piedras, Magdalena, 27. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI.

The species *M. polymnia* is widely distributed in Central and South America and abundant in geographical variations. The subspecies *M. p. doryssus* is found in Central America and the northern

part of Colombia and Venezuela.

Fox (1967) enumerated the localities of this subspecies in the Department Magdalena, northern Colombia, as followings: Atanquez, Bonda, Cacaquelito (?), Don Amo, Don Diego, Manauré, Minca and Onaca.

The subspecies *M. p. doryssus* was commonly found in the tropical rain forest near Caribbean Sea, but not so abundant than *M. isthmia veritabilis*.

### 3. *Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis* BUTLER

1♀, Barranquilla, Atlántico, 12. vi, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♀, Donachúi, Magdalena, 27. vi, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♀, Asunción, Guajira, 21. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 2♂♂2♀♀, Río Mendiguaca, Magdalena, 29. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 3♂♂1♀, Quebrada Manzanares, Río Piedras, 31. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 9♂♂1♀, Quebrada Cinto, near Río Piedras, 2. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, San Isidro de la Sierra, Río Piedras, 27. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI.

The species *M. isthmia* is distributed from Central America to the central part of South America. The subspecies *M. i. veritabilis* is found in the northern part of Colombia and Venezuela. The species "*M. doryssus*" in SCHMID & ENDICOTT (1968) should be treated as *M. i. veritabilis*.

Fox (1967) enumerated the localities of this subspecies in the Department Magdalena, northern Colombia, as followings: Aracataca, Bonda, Cacaquelito, Don Amo, Don Diego, Río Frio, Magdalena, Makaska (?), Manauré, Onaca and SMM.

The subspecies *M. i. veritabilis* is the commonest one of the genus *Mechanitis* in the tropical rain forest near the Caribbean Sea, but rare in the mountainous zone of the Donachúi district.

### 4. *Melinaea lilis ezra* Fox

1♀, Loma El Medio, near Río Piedras, Magdalena, 30. vii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, Quebrada Constante, Río Piedras, Magdalena, 1. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI; 1♂, San Isidro de la Sierra, Río Piedras, Magdalena, 24. viii, coll. M. TAKAHASHI.

The species *M. lilis* is distributed from Mexico to Colombia and Venezuela, and in Bolivia isolatedly

Table 1. Collected numbers of *Mechanitis* and *Melinaea* in each locality.

Region	Locality	Altitude (m)	<i>Mechanitis menapis caribensis</i>	<i>Mechanitis polynnia doryssus</i>	<i>Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis</i>	<i>Melinaea lilis ezra</i>
I	Asunción Ciénaga Barranquilla	0~2			1	
		0~2			1	
		0~2			1	
II	Río Mendiguaca	50~80		1	4	
	Loma El Medio	400~450		2		1
	Q. Manzanares	100~550		2	4	
	Q. Constante	180~430				1
	Q. Cinto	100~250	1	1	10	
	Q. Sta. Teresa	100~250		1		
	San Isidro de la Sierra	450~500		3	1	1
III	San Lorenzo	1200~1400	1	1		
IV	Chemesquemena	1150~1200	4			
	Chemesquemena-Donachúi	1800~2000	2			
	Río Donachúi	1300~2100	9		1	
Total			17	11	23	3

I : Tropical region near the SMM.

II : Tropical region in the northern foot of the SMM.

III : Mountainous region near Santa Marta

IV : Mountainous region on the south-eastern slope of the SMM.

from those ranges. The subspecies *M. l. ezra* is found only in the northern part of Colombia and Venezuela.

Fox (1960) enumerated the localities of this subspecies as followings: Minca, Hacienda Victoria (Sierra San Lorenzo), Cincinati, Bonda, Don Amo, Onaca, Vista Nieva (San Mateo), and Manauré.

The subspecies *M. l. ezra* was found in the tropical rain forest near Caribbean Sea not so abundantly. Only three specimens were collected.

### Literature

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### Resumen

Se publica una lista con unas notas de tres especies del género *Mechanitis* y una especie del género *Melinaea*, Ithomiinae, Danaidae, coleccionadas en Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta y su vecinidad, los Departamentos del Magdalena, el Atlántico y el Guajira, Colombia, América del Sur, por la Expedición Científica a los Andes Colombianos de la Universidad de Shizuoka, 1967.

*Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis* es la especie más común del género en los bosques húmedos tropicales de la región del Río Piedras cerca de la Costa Caribe.

*Mechanitis menapis caribensis* se encuentra abundante en los bosques húmedos subtropicales a lo largo del Río Donachúi.

*Mechanitis polymnia doryssus* vive principalmente en los bosques húmedos tropicales, aunque es menos abundosa que *Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis*.

*Melinaea lilis ezra* se encuentra en los bosques húmedos tropicales, por ser rara relativamente, tres cabezas solamente fueron coleccionadas.

### Explanation of plates

#### Plate 1.

- Fig. 1. *Mechanitis menapis caribensis* Fox ♂, Donachúi, 2. vii; FL: 33.5mm.  
 Fig. 2. *Mechanitis menapis caribensis* Fox ♂, Quebrada Cinto, 2. viii; FL: 35.7mm.  
 Fig. 3. *Mechanitis menapis caribensis* Fox ♀, Donachúi, 3. vii; FL: 37.1mm.  
 Fig. 4. *Mechanitis menapis caribensis* Fox ♀, San Lorenzo, 11. vii; FL: 39.3mm.  
 Fig. 5. *Mechanitis polymnia doryssus* BATES ♂, Quebrada Manzanares, 31. vii; FL: 33.4mm.  
 Fig. 6. *Mechanitis polymnia doryssus* BATES ♂, Loma El Medio, 30. vii; FL: 35.1mm.  
 Fig. 7. *Mechanitis polymnia doryssus* BATES ♂, Quebrada Cinto, 2. viii; FL: 34.8mm.  
 Fig. 8. *Mechanitis polymnia doryssus* BATES ♀, San Lorenzo, 11. vii; FL: 40.0mm.

#### Plate 2.

- Fig. 9. *Mechanitis polymnia doryssus* BATES ♀, Quebrada Santa Teresa, 3. viii; FL: 36.5mm.  
 Fig. 10. *Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis* BUTLER ♂, Quebrada Cinto, 2. viii; FL: 33.0mm.  
 Fig. 11. *Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis* BUTLER ♂, Río Mendiguaca, 29. vii; FL: 33.8mm.  
 Fig. 12. *Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis* BUTLER ♀, Río Mendiguaca, 29. vii; FL: 36.1mm.  
 Fig. 13. *Mechanitis isthmia veritabilis* BUTLER ♀, Quebrada Cinto, 2. viii; FL: 35.9mm.  
 Fig. 14. *Melinaea lilis ezra* Fox ♂, Quebrada Constante, 1. viii; FL: 44.3mm.  
 Fig. 15. *Melinaea lilis ezra* Fox ♂, San Isidro de la Sierra, 24. viii; FL: 45.2mm.  
 Fig. 16. *Melinaea lilis ezra* Fox ♀, Loma El Medio, 30. vii; FL: 42.4mm.



